

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Ketsana

Emergency appeal n° MDRPH005
GLIDE n° [TC-2009-000205-PHL](#)
Operations update n° 2
6 October 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update:
2 to 5 October 2009

Appeal target (current):
CHF 3,086,571 (USD 2.98 million or EUR 2.45 million);

Appeal coverage: 47%; funds are urgently needed to enable the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to those affected by this disaster.

[<link to updated donor response list, or contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This preliminary [emergency appeal](#) was launched 1 October 2009 for CHF 3,086,571 (USD 2.98 million or EUR 2.45 million) for nine months to assist 20,000 families (100,000 people).
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society in initial response.



Relief supplies are now being distributed in Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan and Quezon City. With an estimated 370,000 people still remaining in evacuation centres and unable to return to their homes, there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance to ensure survival and curb potential health risks. (Photo: PNRC)

Summary:

As of 4 October, the national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) reports 295 people have been killed, while 39 others are still missing. Government figures report 16,094 houses completely destroyed, and 22,849 damaged, while almost 3.9 million people (about 806,000 families) across the country have been affected

In the immediate aftermath of Ketsana, PNRC sent out 21 water search-and-rescue teams to work with the coast guard and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). More than 1,000 people were rescued in the first three days. With support from ICRC, the PNRC has received 72 requests to trace people lost in the typhoon. Twenty-two of these cases have been resolved.

Joint assessment teams from PNRC, the International Federation, Spanish Red Cross and ICRC have visited up to 25 evacuation centres with a focus on water and sanitation facilities. With several areas in Laguna still flooded, some parts remain inaccessible by 4x4 vehicle. From the available information, priority areas for the operation include the districts of Rizal, Laguna and Bulacan as well as Quezon City.

To date, cash and in-kind contributions have been received from American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross. A substantial contribution has been received from European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

On behalf of the Philippine National Red Cross, the International Federation would like to thank all donors for their quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) hit the Philippines on 26 September, causing mass destruction across Central Luzon, including the capital city Metro Manila.

Flooding caused by Ketsana and subsequent heavy rain continues. While water has receded in certain areas, others are still underwater from overflowing dams, poor drainage and blocked sewage systems, and waterlogged ground. Elevated water levels are still present in areas surrounding Metro Manila, forcing many people to remain at evacuation centres. People who are able, have returned to clear debris and clean up their homes. An estimated 75,000 families (some 370,000 people) remain in 513 evacuation centres in the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana. These include 161 evacuation centres in the national capital region (NCR); 60 in Region III (Bataan, Zambales, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija); and, 292 in Region IV (Batangas, Laguna, Rizal Cavite, and Quezon).

The focus in evacuation centres remains water and sanitation, and relief while needs assessments continue. The health situation is reported under control as local health authorities and privately supported medical teams visit the evacuation centres and provide medical supplies and services.

On the heels of Ketsana, Typhoon Parma made landfall on Saturday, 3 October at 15:00 local time, moving through northern Luzon, and leaving the island around 03:00 on 4 October. To date, 16 people are reported dead. Agriculture and infrastructure have been severely affected. Estimates on numbers of houses destroyed or damaged are ongoing. Debris on roads continues to block access to some areas. Many areas report landslides, mudslides and flooding.

Pre-emptive evacuation was arranged by the government in preparation for Parma. A total of about 38,000 families (or 180,000 people) have sought refuge with relatives, friends or any of the 460 government-run evacuation centres as a precautionary measure for Parma. Presently, most families seeking refuge from Typhoon Parma have or are on the verge of returning to their homes.

As Parma continues to subside, Typhoon Melor approaches.

Coordination and partnerships

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the PNRC is supported by the International Federation, regional disaster response team (RDRT) members and partner national societies including German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. Movement support in the Ketsana relief operation is in terms of operational capacity and the coordination of relief efforts. The PNRC also coordinates and cooperates with national and local authorities.

As outlined in the preliminary emergency appeal, international delegates are being identified and will arrive shortly to provide further support. The German and Spanish national societies in-country have also called for more delegates to support the operation. The ICRC is also assisting through the provision of four water and habitation teams and five tracing teams in direct support of PNRC.

The proposal in conjunction with German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross submitted for the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) grant has been approved and will therefore assist the PNRC to supply 6,000 families with non-food items, and water and sanitation facilities.

Regional disaster response team (RDRT) personnel have arrived in Manila including one acting operations manager, four RDRT team members from Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Malaysian Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross and Thai Red Cross specializing in the area of water and sanitation, logistics, relief coordination and health. The Asia Pacific zone office has also dispatched one disaster response delegate and one logistics delegate from the regional logistics unit to the Philippines to assist with operational support.

Inter-agency coordination

The International Federation participates on behalf of PNRC and its partners at inter-agency meetings to coordinate overall relief efforts in the country. The emergency shelter cluster has been activated and is currently being facilitated by a shelter cluster coordinator and an information manager. Activities of organizations, donors and government agencies will be coordinated by relevant clusters to ensure efficient accountable partnerships in the Typhoon Ketsana response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

At present, evacuation centres are being provided water distribution systems such as storage tanks, pipes and tap stands, while initial sanitary facilities such as mobile toilets have been procured in-country. The PNRC has assigned response teams for water and sanitation activities including hygiene promotion, first aid and health interventions as and when needed.

In the immediate aftermath of Ketsana, PNRC sent out 21 water search-and-rescue teams (of three members each) to work together with the coast guard and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). More than 1,000 people were rescued in the first three days of these efforts. With support from ICRC, the PNRC has received 72 requests for tracing of people lost in the typhoon, 22 of which have been resolved.

The PNRC has set up a system where all branches report every day on their situation and activities being carried out. Chapters remain on alert while national disaster response teams (NDRT) stand at the ready for deployment.

The PNRC works in cooperation with the local authorities and monitors the development of the situation throughout the country with the help of its branches and incoming reports from volunteers. Also, it is assessing the situation at evacuation centres that were established to cope with the influx of evacuees fleeing the approaching typhoon. The national society continues to monitor and remain prepared in the areas affected by Typhoon Parma as well. Visits and support to evacuation centres will be provided according to needs such as food and relief items.

In terms of human resources, at international level, delegate positions announced in the preliminary emergency appeal are now in the final stages of confirmation. The first delegates to support this operation should arrive within the next few days. These include a head of operations, finance/administration and reporting. A logistics delegate from the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur has been deployed on a short-term basis, with longer-term logistics support forthcoming.

The German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross are expecting one delegate each to arrive in support of their operations which form part of the larger PNRC effort. Two nurses from Japanese Red Cross currently support PNRC. Norwegian Red Cross is in-country on a short-term basis while Swiss Red Cross is represented by one delegate.

Progress towards objectives

Since the launch of the preliminary emergency appeal on 1 October, the following objectives have progressed as follows:

Relief distributions (non-food items)	
<p>Objective: Up to 75,000 people (15,000 families) have their immediate needs provided for through the distribution of non-food items (NFI), such as hygiene kits, kitchen sets, clothing, bedding, jerry cans and household items, by the Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operation.</p>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>The immediate needs of 15,000 affected families living in evacuation shelters and damaged houses are met through relief distributions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ongoing needs assessments in affected areas. • Coordinate with local authorities in registration and mapping the selected families. • Deploy trained PNRC volunteers and staff to carry out beneficiary selection and social mobilization. • Engage community participation in planning and distribution of relief items. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

International Federation relief supplies for 10,000 families (or 50,000 people) have arrived by 747-200 air charter on 5 October, deployed from the Federation regional logistics unit warehouse in Malaysia, consisting of in-kind donations from American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross.

ICRC has also mobilized in-country stocks and Spanish Red Cross has provided bilateral support. Local procurement is being initiated to complete the relief packages supplied to affected families. Beneficiaries have been selected by PNRC through assessments carried out with the assistance of the national society's partners. All relief supplies provided by the Federation, ICRC and partner national societies will be distributed through the PNRC.

As of 5 October, the PNRC is finalizing relief distribution lists for the hard-hit areas of Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan and Quezon City.

- In Rizal: up to 2,714 families in evacuation centres have been identified with more families to be added as further information following needs assessments is being received by the PNRC national headquarters. Distribution has begun on 5 October.
- In Laguna: The distribution list with beneficiaries in evacuation centres and private households is expected to be finalized by 6 October. PNRC chapters correspond with municipalities and have volunteers on the ground which will help pinpoint the most appropriate recipients for aid. To date, 4,000 family kits have been assigned for distribution, based on the total number of 12,000 affected families. (Of these, 2,500 of the 4,000 kits are provided from existing USAID stocks of hygiene kits and jerry cans.) A separate 2,000 kits are being provided by PNRC, bringing numbers to 6,000 kits in total for distribution.
- In Bulacan: Assessments are still ongoing, but a large number of beneficiaries is expected. PNRC is targeting its efforts towards both evacuation centres and private households.
- In Quezon City: A comparatively small number of beneficiaries is expected.

Supplies of family kits are expected from ICRC (3,000), USAID (10,000), Federation and German Red Cross (10,000). Many of these kits lack sleeping mats, but this shortfall will be partly covered by PNRC stock of 3,000. Spanish Red Cross also has 1,000 hygiene kits available.

Distribution itself commences the evening of 5 October at the Rizal chapter with existing stock, and Laguna is next in line. Further information on distributions will be given in the next operations update.

Water and sanitation	
Objective: Up to 75,000 people (15,000 families) have received water and sanitation support, enabling them to ward off the risks of waterborne and related diseases as well as ensure community survival.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities at target evacuation centres has been established along with increased awareness of hygiene practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address water, sanitation and hygiene priorities among people living in selected evacuation centres, with special emphasis on the needs of women and children. • Survey availability of safe drinking water for people living in selected evacuation centres. • Provide water containers and purification tablets to 75,000 people (15,000 families) for one month. These will be included in the non-food item (NFI) packages. • Serve a projected 20,000 people through the trucking of potable water and provision of water bladders at targeted evacuation centres. • Serve a projected 20,000 people by providing emergency latrines for men and women at evacuation centres. • Conduct emergency participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) sessions on the safe use of water and sanitation facilities in the target area through locally identified and

	<p>trained community health and first aid volunteers and other community volunteers in selected shelters and respective communities supporting safe return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster and maintain regular reporting/feedback.
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PNRC are assisting with water distribution to beneficiaries with the use of jerry cans and trucks as well as two water bladders set up at two evacuation centres. Other sanitation facilities available for beneficiaries are 20 portable toilets. The PNRC water and sanitation team is also supported by Spanish Red Cross and ICRC.

Health	
<p>Objective: A projected 75,000 affected people (15,000 families) have benefited from a variety of curative and referral health services, thus reducing community health risks for a quicker rehabilitation and recovery process.</p>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Affected people in communities hit by the typhoon have received appropriate medical services.</p> <p>Communities have received appropriate referral services for the most vulnerable patients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health promotion to affected communities, in coordination with water and sanitation support, through 25 health promotion teams and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. • Provide medicines through 50 essential drug kits, which have the capacity to supply up to 50,000 people. • Service affected communities through the deployment of seven mobile medical teams for one month. • Support medical referral systems for malnourished patients, including children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups.

PNRC is carrying out regular visits to evacuation centres together with volunteer first aiders and relief personnel. Welfare desks have been set up in newly established evacuation centres as well as those with special needs. These PNRC visits are carried out by health teams that distribute hygiene kits together with hygiene promotion and health education activities to promote safe sanitary habits. More teams are now being organized for mobile medical and health services with coordination with the department of health.

The need for psychosocial support is being addressed through the deployment of 39 PNRC volunteer social workers to evacuation centres and to private homes of families affected. Tracing and welfare services are also being provided. At two evacuation centres in particular need, welfare desks staffed by PNRC volunteers are set up to provide critical incident stress management (CISM). These volunteers carry out basic psychological support and psychological first aid to those affected in these evacuation centres. Up to 606 incidences of this support have been recorded, with 170 referrals to other relevant institutions, and up to 161 sessions of guidance and counselling.

The following components are part of the longer-term plans of the operation and will be refined and adjusted according to ongoing assessments and the evolution of the situation in the affected areas.

Shelter

Objective: 4,000 affected people (800 families) are assisted with adequate temporary shelter.

Expected results	Activities planned
Improve shelter conditions at evacuation centres for families with severely damaged and destroyed houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy trained local PNRC staff and volunteers to carry out beneficiary selection, including dissemination of a self help programme. • Procure and distribute locally appropriate shelter materials, tools and guidance to improve the privacy, repair damages and collectively maintain the premises.

While there are statistics on houses and property damaged, these will be re-confirmed by joint assessment teams who are in the field. Further updates on these will be given when available.

Early recovery

Objective: 4,000 people (800 families) in the areas most affected have safe and adequate shelter and settlement solutions through the provision of locally appropriate tools, resources and guidance to repair and refurbish their homes.

Expected results	Activities planned
Families are able to refurbish and repair their homes through locally appropriate tools and materials/clean-up kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify beneficiary communities and families, prioritizing families who have lost homes or who have had their homes severely damaged. • Mobilize and procure appropriate shelter materials following Federation procurement standards, and distribute them to identified families. • Ensure that families are able to organize/mobilize refurbishment of their own homes. • Provide guidance on refurbishing homes to be safer, more storm- and flood-resilient where appropriate. • Carry out ongoing monitoring and assistance to the families involved.

Activities related to early recovery are still to be planned based on ongoing analysis of needs.

Disaster preparedness

Objective: Communities affected and those at risk to future disasters are supported through increased ability to deal with future calamities via enhanced disaster preparedness capacity.

Expected results	Activities planned
Local PNRC chapters have improved equipment and training for staff and volunteers in disaster and preparedness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and equip 10 rubber-boat teams in search-and-rescue work. • Equip local chapters with 500 rubber boats and 150 life-vests for future search and rescue operations. • Equip PNRC headquarters with two land cruisers that will be specially geared for flood situations.

Disaster preparedness efforts have been re-focused on needs in depth rather than on a wider but more superficial basis. Positive impact from this approach is anticipated to be more beneficial for those affected. As such, more study into the identification of priorities and areas of concentration is being done.

Logistics

All appeal items currently listed on the mobilization table posted by the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur for this operation have been covered. The chartered B747-200 arrived in Manila on 5 October with some 100 tonnes or 500 m³ of relief items sent from the regional logistics warehouse in Malaysia, including 20,000 jerry cans, 20,000 mosquito nets, 20,000 blankets, 3,500 kitchen sets and 10,000 hygiene parcels.

Other items shipped to Manila include two mobile water treatment plants, two water bladders and 1,000 hygiene kits from Spanish Red Cross. USAID relief items of plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and jerry cans were mobilized in-country.

Donors are requested to [coordinate with the regional logistics unit](#) in Kuala Lumpur regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors with a consignment tracking number to be issued before shipping any goods to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through the regional logistics unit.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

International news media continues with extensive coverage of the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines, as well as Typhoons Parma and Melor.

Numerous interviews of the PNRC leadership with international and local media have also taken place. The national society leadership has been advocating for multilateral contributions under this emergency appeal instead of in-kind donations. Response to this appeal will help facilitate operational costs and services when activities are being carried out.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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**[<Updated donor response report attached below;
click here to return to the title page>](#)**